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SecDef announces anthrax vaccination program changes

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department will temporarily slow its mandatory anthrax vaccination program because of a shrinking supply of tested, certified vaccine, Defense Secretary William S. Cohen announced July 10.

According to Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Randall L. West, a senior Pentagon advisor on chemical and biological defense, most of the remaining vaccine will be used to help protect those serving in the high-threat areas of Southwest Asia and Korea. Others will be deferred for the time being to sustain current supplies.

"In light of this slow down, we will do

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The Air Force surgeon general said the service will continue to ensure Air Force members at highest risk are vaccinated according to DOD guidance.

Errors prompt review of AFIT

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — After discovering a large number of errors, the Air Force is reviewing the active duty service commitments of officers who are attending or have attended the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, since 1991.

The review will cover everyone who has been enrolled in a degree

program through AFIT, whether the coursework was done there or through civilian colleges and universities.

To date, a wide variety of errors have been

found in the records of 1,200 officers. The errors range from ADSCs that are too long, too short or simply not recorded in any official record. A large number of students thus have no ADSC in their records related to the education they received or are receiving.

As mistakes are found, the records will be corrected, but only after the officer is notified and has a chance to appeal the action to the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph. Because no two cases are exactly alike, each will be handled individually by the center

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NEWSBYTES

E-5 promotion list July 19

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The staff sergeant promotion list will be released July 19, nearly one month earlier than last year.

Last year's late release was due, in part, to the deployment of airmen to operation Allied Force. Those who were deployed had to be given an opportunity to return and test, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

This year reduced testing windows allowed AFPC to score and process most of the 40,000 tests earlier.

NMD test flight fails

WASHINGTON — The fifth test flight of the prototype National Missile Defense system ended in failure July 8 when the "bullet" and booster rocket stages didn't separate.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Ronald T. Kadish, director of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, explained that the kill vehicle, the "bullet" of the NMD architecture, apparently waited for a signal from the booster that never came. Lacking the signal, the kill vehicle shut down its timeline and never attempted to intercept the Vandenberg target.

Test results are under review.

EQUAL listing July 25

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — A new listing of assignments for enlisted members returning from overseas bases will be available July 25 at military personnel flights and on the Air Force Personnel Center's World Wide Web page.

For more information, visit the AFPC home page at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil.



Letters to the editor

U.S. Air Force Online News publishes letters based on their appeal to an Air Force-wide audience each week. Send your letter to the U.S. Air Force Online News staff by completing the online form at <http://www.af.mil/newspaper/>

Due to the number of letters, not all letters can be published. Letters may be edited for grammar and length.

Patriotism defined

In response to "Patriotism becoming extinct" (June 28), patriotism is the love of country and defending its way of life — not receiving medals. And recognition could be as simple as the satisfaction of a job well done. If you have to be recognized for doing a good job, you are in the wrong profession. Remember, it is our job as military members to mentor our troops to the real meaning of patriotism, not allow it to become extinct.

Staff Sgt. Jeff Byrd
Osan AB, Korea

'Unwritten' rules for ribbons

In response to "Give us a uniform for the 21st century" (June 21), the writer mentions an

"unwritten" rule that officers don't wear ribbons on their blue shirts. According to AFI 36-2903 you can wear all, some, or none when it comes to ribbons. As far as I see there is no "unwritten" rule, just something plain as day.

Staff Sgt. Sean Murphy
Dover AFB, Del.

Commitment

Regarding Lt. Col. Mike Kukulski's commentary "Perspective on commitment" (June 28), as a military retiree and Vietnam vet, I think commitment is just what Colonel Kukulski states. Commitment is a cover word for: duty, integrity, ethics, honor, courage and loyalty.

Charles J. McTamany
Defense Supply Center, Philadelphia

Advice not always good for recruiting

By Staff Sgt. Doug Gibson
Randolph Air Force Base, Texas

As an Air Force recruiter, I talk with potential airmen every day. I know how easy it is to turn them off to the Air Force without realizing you do it.

So many young people have left my office fired up and ready to join, excited about serving their country in the world's finest Air Force, only to return a few days later telling me they met someone in the Air Force who told them they were making a mistake.

I believe most of the Air Force people who give advice to potential recruits honestly think they are helping the individual. Unfortunately, this is often not the case.

The most common scenario is when the young recruit is entering the Air Force in job "X," and the well-intentioned active-duty person tells them, "Job 'X' is a crappy job! Go back and tell your recruiter you want job 'Y' or you won't join!"

I'm sure these people think they are helping, and many seem to think recruiters are shifty-eyed weasels who intentionally try to place good people into less desirable jobs. The truth however, is often that "job" X is a less desirable job only in their eyes.

There are many reasons people join the Air Force, and different jobs appeal to different folks.

The well-meaning advice giver probably has no idea what this applicant's qualifica-

tions are. Maybe their test scores limited their job choices; maybe their Sensitive Jobs Code doesn't qualify them for certain jobs; maybe the Air Force has no openings for job "Y's" particular Air Force Specialty Code.

Many people think if there are shortages on base in a certain AFSC, then recruiters can give out that job. It doesn't work that way. For example, the security forces career field, as we all know, is undermanned; however, there are no openings currently available for those positions! The technical school is booked full for the rest of the summer. Security forces, by the way, is probably the most commonly requested job from people coming into a recruiting office.

The result of the well-intentioned, but errant advice, is an applicant who no longer has any faith in the recruiter, and now believes that job "Y" is the only one worth having in the Air Force. Since the recruit probably isn't qualified for job "Y" or it isn't available, this young person often leaves with a poor impression of the Air Force and goes back to flipping burgers or pushing carts at the local department store.

If the average active-duty person knew the impact a simple piece of advice could have on these kids, they would be more careful. I encourage my applicants to seek

out military members to learn about life in the service, and despite what many think, we aren't trying to hide anything from applicants. We go to great lengths to match an applicant to the best possible job.

If I could encourage one thing from the active Air Force community, it would be to talk about their own experiences in the Air Force — without trying to guide the potential recruit's career. Tell them about the things most of them want to know, like what is day-to-day life like? What time do you get up? What are the dining halls like? How often do you get to leave the base? These are a few of the more common questions. Tell them what you think of the Air Force, why you joined, what you have found.

Did you know many applicants think we all get up at 4:30 a.m. to reveille and do physical training, or that many think a chow hall is a place where some grizzled old cook called "sarge" slops green stuff on your tray? Did you know a lot of these kids think our security guys on the gates are there to keep us in, unless we have a town pass?

These are misconceptions that active-duty Air Force people can help eliminate, and that's how they can best support the recruiting program. (Sergeant Gibson is assigned to the 361st Recruiting Squadron.)





Raptor's radar unveiled

By Tech. Sgt. Mike Spaits
Headquarters United States Air Force

BALTIMORE – The F-22 Raptor took another step closer to becoming the “backbone of U.S. Air Dominance” recently, with the unveiling of its advanced avionics radar system.

According to Lt. Gen. Stephen B. Plummer, principal deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, these components will help the F-22 guarantee U.S. air supremacy well into the next century.

“The American people expect their Air Force to continue to dominate the skies, just as we have for decades and the F-22’s unique capabilities will make that possible,” said General Plummer at the radar’s unveiling.

This system provides “the capability to provide battlespace knowledge to the pilot on an unprecedented basis,” he said. The integrated avionics package offers pilots situational awareness, through sensor fusion and data display that is far superior to any aircraft flying today or on the drawing board.

“The Raptor’s true worth will be measured in American lives saved through dominance of the skies in future combat, and by



The F-22's integrated avionics are tested in a simulated cockpit aboard a flying test bed to enable extensive in-flight testing, evaluation and troubleshooting before the avionics are ever installed on the Raptor. The cockpit has primary and secondary displays, as well as a throttle and stick. (Image courtesy Boeing)

conflicts prevented because other would be enemies understand and respect the unmatched combat power of the F-22,” he said.

The F-22 is the replacement aircraft for the F-15 Eagle and is expected to become operational around 2005.

Errors prompt review of AFIT

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and be reviewed personally by Maj. Gen. Richard “Tex” Brown, commander of the personnel center.

“We, the Air Force, made these mistakes and it’s up to us to get this fixed,” General Brown said. “I’m committed to do that and will be personally engaged. We owe it to our officers.”

According to General Brown, “The first step in this process is to send personal letters to each of the more than 1,200 officers with missing, inaccurate or otherwise flawed active duty service commitments to explain how AFPC will rectify the situation.”

Earlier this year, Secretary of the Air Force Whit Peters gave the general authority to grant relief from ADSCs in cases in which the Air Force made a mistake and enforcing the correct commitment would create an injustice.

“I’m confident General Brown has the tools at his disposal to ensure our people

are treated fairly,” Secretary Peters said. “It’s unfortunate that we made so many mistakes in active duty service commitments under the old regulation and enforcement system. Now, after a lot of hard work, I believe we’re on the road to getting this problem fixed once and for all. Our service members deserve to know where they stand and should be able to have confidence that our system will treat them fairly.”

Secretary Peters said he believes the officers affected understood they would receive a service commitment in exchange for valuable graduate-level education. However, the Air Force Instruction governing service commitments that was in force at the time these officers made their decision to attend AFIT was confusing and difficult to interpret. It has since been simplified as part of a comprehensive effort to ensure that ADSCs are entered into all airmen’s records correctly.

This article is available in its entirety online.

ACC commander pulls colonel from upcoming wing commander job

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. – Citing that his first obligation is to the 33rd Fighter Wing, its people and its mission, Air Combat Command commander Gen. John P. Jumper canceled a colonel’s upcoming assignment as the wing’s future commander. The colonel is associated with a September 1998 crash of two helicopters at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., that killed 12 people.

Colonel Larry D. New, tapped to be the next boss of the 33rd FW at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., was the 57th Operations Group commander at Nellis when the helicopters crashed, killing all aboard. The resultant accident investigation board concluded that Colonel New failed to mitigate known safety hazards in the mishap unit prior to the accident.

“My first obligation is to the 33rd Fighter Wing, its people and its mission,” said General Jumper. “While Colonel New’s career-long record of performance demonstrates he is a highly capable officer, his association with this accident, and the continuing news media scrutiny it draws, will detract from his ability to effectively lead the wing. I owe it to the men and women of the 33rd to give them a commander who can focus exclusively on them and their mission.”

An independent review examined what actions Colonel New took as the 57th OG commander prior to the mishap, to include reviewing the accident investigation board report and interviewing witnesses.

Command selection boards base selections on review of career-spanning performance reports. Generally not available to them is information such as accident investigation results, or any surrounding controversy, such as in Colonel New’s case.

No one has been nominated to replace Colonel New, who was slated to take charge of the 33rd in April 2001.



Summer heat complicates pet travel at height of PCS season

By Staff Sgt. Cynthia Miller
Headquarters United States Air Force

WASHINGTON — It's summer — school's out, vacations are in, and for many military families, it's time to move.

But for some family members, summer heat could mean being left behind as most commercial airlines place embargoes on pet travel when temperatures go above 85 degrees.

Due to the rising outside temperatures, two out of three domestic commercial airlines contacted placed embargoes on pet travel from mid-May through mid-September, making air travel with pets all but impossible on domestic and international flights.

One commercial carrier accommodates

domestic pet travel during the summer months by offering a service guaranteeing pets traveling on their commercial flights as cargo are last to be loaded and first to be unloaded. However, the cost for such service can reach up to \$500 one-way, depending on the pet's size and weight.

For military families traveling to overseas assignments via chartered flights pets are easily accommodated, as long as reservations are made well in advance.

Passengers bringing pets with them on military chartered flights are responsible for the cost of their pet's travel and are charged based on weight and destination.

This article is available in its entirety online.

SecDef announces anthrax vaccination program changes

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our best to ensure those Air Force men and women at highest risk are vaccinated according to the Secretary of Defense's guidance," said Lt. Gen. Paul K. Carlton Jr., Air Force Surgeon General.

Protecting our forces against a known and viable threat must be weighed against ensuring every lot of the anthrax vaccine used meets national safety, purity and sterility standards, General West said. A full resumption of the vaccination effort will occur when a sufficient supply of FDA-approved and certified safe and effective vaccine is available.

At the beginning of July, more than 138,000 Air Force members had begun the anthrax vaccination series of six doses, which are given over 18 months and followed up

with annual boosters.

"Since 1998 the biological threat has only increased. Since 1998 we have almost 58,000 troops who have had the full six-shot series and are now fully protected with the vaccine. Almost 400 thousand more are at least partially through the vaccination schedule. But our goal is to have all of our forces fully protected," General West said.

Precise plans for resuming vaccinations will be based on the recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and consultation with the FDA.

Even though most of the details resulting from this slow down have been decided and will be announced soon, some details remain to be worked out, according to DOD sources.

AF Museum's Korean War exhibit brings history home

By Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey
Korean War Committee

WASHINGTON — More than 100 Korean War artifacts, 21 aircraft, 14 murals and a number of previously unpublished photos make up the Air Force Museum's historical tribute to those who served in the "Forgotten War."

"Korea Remembered: The Air Force Comes of Age" is open at the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, showcasing all aspects of air power and its impact on today's military.

"This is a display that doesn't duplicate the museum's permanent Korean War Gallery," said Jeff Duford, Air Force Museum researcher. "It examines the changing roles, technology and tactics within the greater scope of U.S. Air Force history."

The exhibit consists of eight sections — air superiority, strategic bombing, interdiction, close air support, reconnaissance, Korean airlift, aeromedical evacuation and air rescue — tucked between large mountain elements. According to Mr. Duford, the elements will lead viewers through a 120-foot-long valley showcasing 200 photographs. Most of the pictures are in color and many have never been published. He said dividing the exhibit into eight sections was the best way to tell the Korean War story.

"Only 11 percent of the missions were air superiority," Mr. Duford said.

"Interdiction and airlift each made up 29 percent of the missions flown by the Air Force in Korea, while close air support totaled 17 percent."

This article is available in its entirety online.



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